



Promoting Prosperity in the Rural Communities of the Americas

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IICA INAUGURATES HISTORICAL GALLERY DURING MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

“We look at the present through a rear-view mirror. We march backwards into the future” – Marshall McLuhan



Ann M. Veneman, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, Director General of IICA, at the inauguration of IICA's Historical Gallery.

CORONADO, COSTA RICA, May 10, 2004 – United States Secretary of Agriculture's, Ann M. Veneman joined the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture's (IICA), Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, to inaugurate the Institute's first-ever historical gallery. The event took place during the Science and Technology Conference To Increase Agricultural Productivity in Costa Rica.

Brathwaite said, “Your presence here today Madam Secretary represents a revitalization of the vision of

Henry Wallace in 1942 of fostering international cooperation in agriculture in the Western Hemisphere that led to the creation of what is now the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.”

It was in 1942 that Henry Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, and subsequently Vice-President of the United States, along with then President of Costa Rica, Rafael Calderon, laid the foundation stone in Turrialba to establish the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. Today, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is the successor institution.

The inauguration marks the first step in IICA's efforts to preserve the history of the Institute. The second stage, which will be added in the near future, will include the creation of a Historical Library. The gallery encapsulates the long history of partnerships and commitment that IICA and Member States have shared throughout the years.

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Also present for the inauguration were the Ministers of Agriculture of high-level officials from science and technology, the private and academic sectors, NGO's and national, regional and international organizations from Central America, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and the United States.

ABOUT IICA

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. Its mission is to support the Member States in their pursuit of progress and prosperity in the hemisphere through the modernizations of the rural sector, promotion of food security, and development of an agricultural sector that is competitive, technologically prepared, environmentally managed, and socially equitable for the people of the Americas.

For more information on the conference, please go to:
<http://www.iica.int/confministerial>

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